

Kids' Chronicle

Isaiah prophecies about King David

BY JOE SARNICOLA

I, Isaiah, am an unworthy man. But in the year King Uzziah died, I saw a vision of the Lord, and an angel touched my unclean lips with an ember, removing my wickedness and enabling me to share messages from God about the future. Here is one of those messages.

After the people of Israel were exiled to Babylon, what was left of the kingdom of David could be described as the stump of a tree that had been chopped down. But God keeps his promises, and from this stump of Jesse, the father of David, a new root will sprout. The root will take hold in the ground and there will be a new plant and a new blossom, which will be a new king.

The Lord will bless this king with a spirit that will grant him wisdom to understand all things. He will be strong, and he will rule with justice and a fear of the Lord. As a judge, he will not be influenced by wealth, position or appearance, nor will he believe false witnesses and liars. He will decree that those who are mean, unjust or cruel are to be punished. He will wear justice like a belt around his waist.

Under his rule, the wolf and the lamb will be at peace with one another, a goat will have no fear of a leopard, a calf will walk together with a lion. Leading them all will be a child. On God's holy mountain there will be safety for everyone, and all the people will know that the Lord fills the earth with his love. When the root of Jesse is king, the Gentiles will also rejoice, and God will bring back his people who left the land of Israel.

I will rebuild the mountain of Zion. My watchmen will never sleep. This the Lord promises by the strength of his right arm. No longer will the food of his children be stolen by their enemies. They will eat the grain that they planted themselves, they will drink the wine of their own vineyards, they will enter the courts of God's own sanctuary.

A road will be cleared for the people to reach the gates of the



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

Lord's city without obstacle. They will receive the reward God has planned for them. They will be his holy ones, his children, the people of the Lord. They will never be forgotten or forsaken.

God will love them as a groom loves his bride. They will be filled with the joy of the Lord, they will wear a robe of justice, a veil of salvation. As the earth brings forth fruit-bearing plants, the bride of the Lord will bear the fruit of justice and the praise of God. And all the nations of the earth will be a witness.

READ MORE ABOUT IT: Isaiah 11 & 62.

Q&A

1. Who was Jesse?
2. What kind of a person is the new king?

Bible Accent

Isaiah is one of the most important prophets of the Old Testament times and of our Christian heritage. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Isaiah and the other prophets told the Israelites that God selected them as his "chosen people" because of his great love for them.

God never stopped showing that love, in spite of the fact that the Israelites were sometimes disobedient, stubborn or showed lack of faith.

The Catechism notes that the prophets "proclaim a radical redemption of the People of God... (and) a salvation which will include all nations." The church believes the writers of Scripture were prophets inspired by God, and honors them as saints "in all the church's liturgical traditions."

St. Ambrose

St. Ambrose was a lawyer in the Rome of the fourth century. In 374, the bishop of Milan died. The bishop was part of a heretical group who did not believe that Jesus was divine. This created a controversy among the people as to whether the next bishop should be a heretic or a Catholic.

St. Ambrose, who was governor at the time, spoke to the public in order to prevent hostilities from becoming worse. His speech was so effective that the heretics and the Catholics agreed that St. Ambrose should be appointed as the next bishop.

As bishop, St. Ambrose devoted much of his time to preaching, writing and teaching. His compassionate and diplomatic manner earned the love and respect of the people. We remember him on Dec. 7.

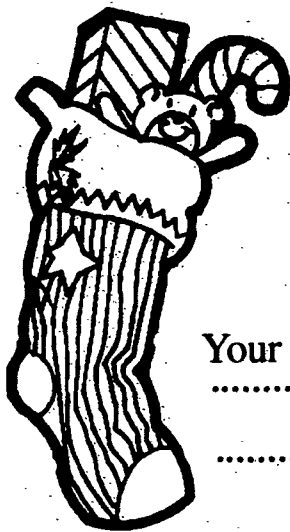
Puzzle

Circle the letters marked with an asterisk (*) to find a hidden message. Answers on page 8.

C* R+ E# H* Y# R* Q@
I* G@ S* X# T* B+ W*
E# E* C+ L* H# C* V@
O* D+ M* K# E* A+ S*
P+ Y* A@ 0* U* O# Z+

Romans 4:7

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Bible Trivia

The weeks leading up to Easter are called Lent. What do we call the weeks before Christmas?

Send Answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, P.O. Box 24579, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name, address and school name.

All entries must be received by Dec. 3, 1998. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was Kenny Geer, a third-grade student at Sacred Heart Cathedral School. He correctly identified Michael as the archangel who argued with the devil.